

REMARKS

Applicants file this Preliminary Amendment along with the filing of a Divisional Application. In the Divisional Application, Applicants respectfully request examination of claims 1-7, which were withdrawn from consideration in the parent application, Application No. 10/356,595 filed on February 3, 2003, as being directed to a non-elected invention.

In the parent application, the Examiner required restriction under 35 U.S.C. § 121 between two groups of inventions: Group I, claims 1-7 and Group II, claims 7-13. See Restriction Requirement dated January 15, 2004. In response, Applicants elected Group II, claims 8-13. See Response to Restriction Requirement dated February 13, 2004.

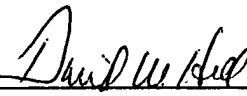
By this Preliminary Amendment, Applicants have canceled claims 8-13, which are being examined in the parent application. Accordingly, claims 1-7, belonging to Group I, remain pending after the entry of this Preliminary Amendment.

If there is any fee due in connection with the filing of this Preliminary Amendment, please charge the fee to our Deposit Account No. 06-0916.

Respectfully submitted,

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